

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

23-78. (Cancelled)

1 ~~79.~~ (Previously Presented) A process for the storage of a protein in an aqueous solution, comprising adding an amount of cysteine effective to delay the temporal decrease in the effective concentration of the protein wherein the effective concentration does not decrease by more than about 7%, and wherein cysteine is added in a concentration of from about 100 mM to the aqueous solution.

2 ~~80.~~ (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim ~~79~~, wherein cysteine is added in a concentration of greater than 100 mM to the aqueous solution.

3 ~~81.~~ (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim ~~79~~, wherein the concentration of cysteine in the aqueous protein solution is in the range from about 100 mM to about 500 mM.

4 ~~82.~~ (Previously Presented) A process for the storage of a protein in an aqueous solution, comprising adding an amount of cysteine effective to delay the temporal decrease in the effective concentration of the protein during a period of greater

than 24 hours, wherein cysteine is added in a concentration of from about 100 mM to the aqueous solution.

5 ~~83.~~ <sup>4</sup> (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim ~~82~~, wherein cysteine is added in a concentration of greater than 100 mM to the aqueous solution.

6 ~~84.~~ <sup>4</sup> (Previously Presented) The process as claimed in claim ~~82~~, wherein the concentration of cysteine in the aqueous protein solution is in the range from about 100 mM to about 500 mM.

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